

About the Director

It is no exaggeration to say that Akira Kurosawa was one of the most important and influential film directors of all time. Born in 1910, he started making movies in 1935, and became famous with the release of *Rashomon* in 1951, winning the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival.

Kurosawa continued to develop his style and made a close connection to the actor Toshiro Mifune who took lead roles in several of his best films in the 1950s and 1960s. This was a successful and synergistic combination, and the films today are as alive and entertaining as when they were first released to great acclaim.

During his life time he made 30 full length feature films in 57 years, and was the first Japanese film maker to burst onto the world cinema scene. He was granted an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1990. He died in Tokyo on September 6th 1998.

This festival will be a rare opportunity to see three of his finest films all including Toshiro Mifune, concluding with perhaps his most loved film, *Rashomon*, which brought Kurosawa to the attention of western audiences.

Speaker: Academic, Julian Warren, will introduce each film and conduct a Q&A session at the end of the day.

Session Times:

9.45am: *Yojimbo* (Japan, 1961, M, 110 mins)

11.45am: Lunch break

1.10pm: *Sanjuro* (Japan, 1962, PG, 95 mins)

3.15pm: *Rashomon* (Japan, 1950, PG, 88 mins)

5.15pm: Close

Ticket Sales:

Tickets will be available on the morning, but to be sure of a seat it is strongly advised to book early by the following means.

On line – www.culturetracks.info

Over the counter at The Memo (Healesville) and also at The Arts Centre (Warburton).

Ticket Prices:

\$36 for 3 films or \$14.50 per film.

In the case of a Red Alert fire warning on the day, the event will be postponed to a later date.

Recommended places for a quick lunch in Healesville



Healesville Mini Film Festival



Sunday 3rd March 2019

A Tribute to Akira Kurosawa

Yojimbo
Sanjuro
Rashomon

With commentary by Julian Warren

The Memo
235 Maroondah Hwy
Healesville

www.yarrarangesfilmsociety.org.au

Yojimbo



Directed by: Akira Kurosawa

Genre: Action/Drama/Thriller

Country of Production: Japan

Rating: PG **Year:** 1961 **Length:** 110mins

Cast: Toshiro Mifune Sanjuro Kuwabatake (Samurai)
Tatsuya Nakadai Unosuke (Gunfighter)
Yoko Tsukasa Orin

Awards: 1962 - Mifune won Best Actor Award at the Venice Film Festival.
1962 - Academy award for best costume 1962

Synopsis: Set in 1860 Japan, Yojimbo tells the story of a samurai named Sanjuro (Toshiro Mifune) who arrives in a small town where competing crime lords vie for supremacy. The two bosses each try to hire the newcomer as a bodyguard. The samurai is in great need of employment but has the very tricky job of choosing the best path to follow. Sanjuro's strategy is to create great interest about himself while keeping his motives obscure.

This was Akira Kurosawa's most popular film in Japan. He deliberately combines the samurai story with the Western, so that the wind-swept main street could be in any frontier town, the samurai could be a gunslinger, and the local characters could have been lifted from John Ford's gallery of supporting actors.

Sanjuro



Directed by: Akira Kurosawa

Genre: Action/Drama/Crime

Country of Production: Japan

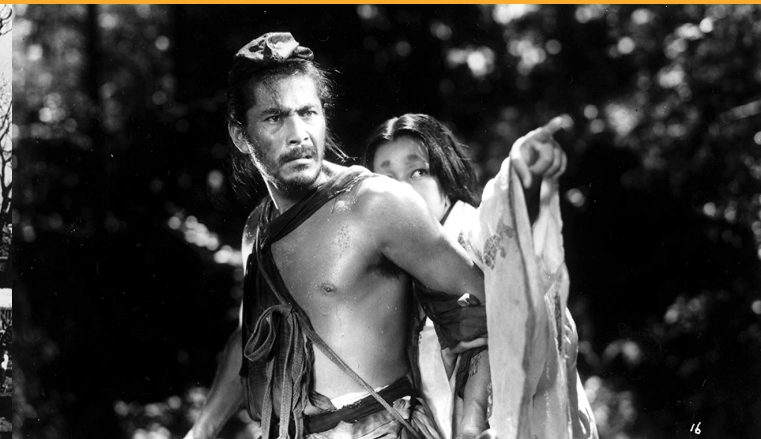
Rating: PG **Year:** 1962 **Length:** 95mins

Cast: Toshiro Mifune Sanjuro Tsubaki (Samurai)
Tatsuya Nakadai Hanbei Muroto
Keiju Kobayashi The Spy
Yuzo Kayama Iori Izaka

Reception: Sanjuro currently holds a 100% rating on the review aggregator, Rotten Tomatoes, based on 21 reviews, with an average IMDb rating of 8.4 out of 10

Synopsis: Kurosawa was pressured by his producers into directing this sequel to Yojimbo, and rose to the occasion by making his funniest and least overtly didactic film. Originally an adaptation of the Shugoro Yamamoto novel Hibi Heian, the script was altered with the success of Kurosawa's 1961 Yojimbo to incorporate the lead character of that film. The plot has Sanjuro (Mifune) running lazy rings around nine would-be samurai and two genteel ladies while cleaning up a spot of corruption in local government. Kurosawa plays most of it for laughs by expertly parodying the conventions of Japanese period action movies, but the tone switches to a magnificent vehemence in the heart-stopping finale.

Rashomon



Directed by: Akira Kurosawa

Genre: Crime/Drama/Mystery

Country of Production: Japan

Rating: M **Year:** 1950 **Length:** 88mins

Cast: Toshiro Mifune Tojamaru
Machiko Kyo Masako Kanazawa
Masayuki Mori Takehiro Kanazawa
Takashi Shimura Woodcutter

Awards: 1950 - Blue Ribbon, Association of Tokyo Film Journalists for screenplay
1951 - Golden Lion Award, Venice Film Festival,
1952 - Best Foreign Film, US Academy Award

Synopsis: Rashomon is a Japanese period film by Kurosawa working in close collaboration with cinematographer Kazuo Miyagawa. It stars Toshiro Mifune as the lead character. While the film borrows the title from Ryunosuke Akutagawa's short story Rashomon, it is actually based on Akutagawa's short story In a Grove, which provides the characters and plot. The film is known for a plot device that involves various characters providing subjective, alternative, self-serving and contradictory versions of the same incident, just as relevant today as it has ever been. Rashomon is now considered as one of the finest films ever made.